(a) whether the Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL) was supposed to make available 16.1 lakh kg. of CNG from 30th June this year per day in Delhi but is dispensing only 4.8 lakh kg. per day;

(b) whether CNG buses on road have crossed more than 6000 whereas the gas supply have hardly gone up;

(c) whether with the dearth of CNG, school kids are compelled to go by 'Tangas' to their school as buses spend whole nights at the CNG filling station; and

(d) if so, what are the Government's plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Supreme Court order dated 05.04.2002, Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) was to make available 16.1 lakh kg. per day of CNG in the NCT of Delhi by 30th June, 2002. However, the average sales of IGL was 4.52 lakh kg. per day on an average for the month of June, 2002.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per the plans of IGL the compression capacity is expected to increase in a phased manner from the present level of 6.9 lakh kg. per day to 16.1 lakh kg. per day by June, 2003.

(c) and (d) IGL has earmarked some mother-stations dedicated for meeting CNG requirement of school buses only. For the current population of school buses the existing facilities are reportedly adequate.

Switching of mobile phones at petrol pumps

1449. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any suggestion has been sent to the State Governments for issuing orders to switch off mobile phones at petrol pumps;

(b) whether it is a fact that in some States fire service authorities find it difficult to implement any measure in the absence of specific orders of the State Government; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure safety of petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR):(a) to (c) The Government has directed that steps should be taken to create an awareness amongst customers about the need for switching off cell phone while at retail outlets. Further, the oil marketing companies have been instructed to display warning notices apart from orienting field staff at the retail outlets for distributing suitable pamphlets to each vehicle entering the premises for a period of 30 days or so. A Press release was also made on 27th June, 2002 for the information of the Public at large.

Wait-listed LPG applicants

1450. SHRI K.P. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wait-listed LPG registrants in the country as on 31st March, 2002;

(b) the target fixed during the current financial year 2002-2003 for releasing new LPG connections;

(c) whether any time frame/road map has been prepared to liquidate the waiting list for gas connections; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (d) At present, LPG connections are released on demand by the distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in all the markets throughout the country. The release of connections during the year 2002-03 would depend upon the market demand.

Freight equalisation scheme

1451. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil companies are considering a proposal to do away with the freight equalisation scheme and there will be